

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 3 and 10-14 are pending in the instant application. Claims 11 and 14 have been amended to correct a typographical error for the spelling of the element gadolinium (Gd^{3+}). Furthermore, the specification has been amended to reflect the correct spelling of gadolinium. These amendments are made to correct typographical errors. The chemical symbol for gadolinium, *i.e.*, Gd^{3+} , appeared in the specification and claims as filed. Thus, these amendments do not represent new matter.

II. Election of Species

Claims 3 and 10-14 were indicated by the Examiner as being generic to a plurality of disclosed, patentably distinct species comprising compounds that block stretch-activated channels of eye retinal ganglion cells. The Examiner required an election of a species under 35 U.S.C. §121. In its previous communication, Applicant elected, with traverse, agonists of gadolinium. In the Office Communication of August 28, 2003, the Examiner requested an election of a single, disclosed species.

Applicant hereby elects with traverse the single species Gadolinium. Applicant traverses the election of species requirement because 37 C.F.R. §1.141 provides that a reasonable number of species may still be claimed in one application. The species being listed in claims 11 and 14 all are linked by the generic property (function) in that they block stretch-activated channels of eye retinal ganglion cells. Applicants submit that a reasonable number of species are presented in claims 11 and 14 and reserve the right to request reconsideration and rejoinder of the remaining species in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions,
comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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